

DALTON-IN-FURNESS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1951.





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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1951.

ULVERSTON,

November, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951. On the grounds of economy the report has been stencilled and duplicated in the office this year instead of being printed.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.	8,022
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951.	10,394
- Registrar-General's Estimate of home population.	10,290
Number of inhabited houses.	3,201
Rateable Value.	£41,498
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate.	£161

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North-Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the North-East to sea level in the West. There are outcrops of Limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying areas flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the Shipyards and Steelworks at Barrow and in agriculture. Some light industries employ female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1951 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

The number of births has shown a slight recovery from the low figure recorded last year but the deaths are higher than for any of the preceding five years. The increase in the death rate is not unexpected, being a direct reflection of the ageing of the population.

One hundred and sixty-one births were registered, 81 being males, of which five were illegitimate; and 80 females of which four were illegitimate.

Approximately 59% of deaths were in persons 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart Disease 61, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 20,

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths. (all causes).		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.			
	Rate per 1,000 registered population.	Number 1,000 registered.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	Number 1,000 registered.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	Number 1,000 registered.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	No. of deaths registered.
1951	161	15.6	170	16.5	4	24	nil	nil	9	56	5	31
1950	155	14.7	143	13.5	4	25	nil	nil	6	39	3	19
1949	156	17.6	133	12.6	4	21	nil	nil	6	32	-	-
1948	184	17.5	136	12.9	3	16	nil	nil	14	76	-	-
1947	218	20.5	131	12.5	5	22	nil	nil	7	32	-	-
1946	186	17.6	153	14.5	4	21	nil	nil	7	37	-	-
Average five years - 1946 - 1950	-	17.7	-	13.2	-	21	-	nil	-	43	-	-

*Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 16.9 per 1,000. (death rate (comparability factor, 0.97) = 16.0 per 1,000.

and malignant growths 17.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	20.8	12.5
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	17.5	12.9
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.6	12.6
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.8	13.1
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	16.9	16.0

Note: The birth and death rates quoted for the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District for the years 1950 and 1951 are adjusted rates after correction for age and sex distribution. The remainder are crude rates. The correction is made so that the adjusted rate for Dalton can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B.,
B. Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District
Council, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District Council,
Ulverston Rural District
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

W. W. JACKSON, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., Meat and Foods
Inspector's Certificate
R.S.I., Certificate in
Sanitary Science as applied
to Buildings and Public
Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District.
Housing Officer - Dalton-in-
Furness Urban District.

GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from the Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulfra Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

Five bacteriological examinations of the treated water were made all of which gave satisfactory results.

The public supply serves 3,167 houses representing approximately 10,442 persons and serves another 13 houses representing 45 persons by means of standpipes. There are also 21 houses representing 73 persons which derive their water supply from private sources.

One of these groups of houses having a private supply is at Snipe Ghyll, Martin, where there are seven houses and a small works supplied with surface water, collected into a reservoir and piped into the houses. During the summer of 1951 the supply failed altogether and samples taken later indicated both by chemical and bacteriological examination that the water was unfit for domestic use in its untreated state. The possibility of providing an alternative supply is under investigation.

Sewerage.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gas works and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluents being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given. The effluent is discharged into a nearby stream and is considered by the Rivers Board to be reasonably satisfactory.

The Dalton sewerage system has been the subject of special investigation and report by the Surveyor, in conjunction with the County Surveyor. Their report concludes:- "it is very evident from the investigation that the existing sewerage system is in an unsatisfactory condition. Whilst serious infiltration has been noted at a number of points, it is reasonably safe to assume that similar conditions exist in more or less degree generally throughout the older parts of the system. This is a particularly serious matter in the case of Dalton-in-Furness where limit has been placed on the flow going forward to the Barrow Outfall".

There were at the end of 1951, 3,158 houses on the water carriage system and 3,297 free water closets were connected thereto. There were also 35 privy middens in the district and eight pail closets. No conversions took place during 1951.

Housing.

No new houses were completed during the year either by the Council or by private builders although 24 houses and six flats were in course of erection by the Council.

One hundred and seventy inspections were made for housing defects and 127 houses were found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. Seventy-nine of the houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action and seven notices were served under the Public Health Acts, as a result of which a further five houses were rendered fit by the owners.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 276 names on the Council's housing application list and a further 91 families were living in temporary accommodation. It is apparent that the acute shortage of houses is one of the major problems confronting the Council..

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report as also are particulars of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the District during 1951.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1946 - 1950, compared with the numbers in 1951:-

DISEASE.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951		
						Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	Deaths in hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	1	7	37	46	28	0	0	0
Diphtheria.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	0	2	185	3	100	36	0	0
Whooping Cough.	4	3	0	22	1	27	0	0
Pneumonia.	1	1	1	6	0	1	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Puerperal Fever.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	1	2	2	2	5	3	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever,	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Polio-myelitis.	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	1
Para-typhoid fever.	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS.	9	18	226	82	134	77	6	2

The incidence of infectious disease has been generally low throughout the year. It is remarkable that not one case of Scarlet Fever was notified.

Of the three cases of poliomyelitis, one occurred in Lindal in September and the other two occurred in Dalton in November. There was no connection between any of the three cases.

The first case was a child aged 8 years. At the follow-up examination six months after the date of onset she had recovered with no obvious functional limitations.

The second case was in an adult aged 30 years who died on the sixth day of the disease.

The third case was in a child aged 4 years who, at the follow-up examination six months after the date of onset, was still receiving treatment.

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1951:-

Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
20-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	2	5	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
45-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
55-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
65-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
75 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS.	8	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
	16		4		3		3	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past twelve years.

Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1940	5	3	1	1	3	4	-	-
1941	4	4	-	1	1	1	1	-
1942	5	4	4	4	1	4	-	-
1943	12	5	4	5	3	4	-	-
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	-	-
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	-	-
1946	4	7	-	2	2	8	1	-
1947	9	8	4	3	2	1	1	-
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	-	-
1949	10	4	1	4	2	-	2	-
1950	3	7	2	3	3	-	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	-	2	1

The increase in the number of notified cases of T. B. is probably due to increased diagnostic facilities. In particular, in 1951, the visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit both directly and indirectly led to the earlier diagnosis of some cases of Tuberculosis.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 17 registered premises at which mechanical power is not used of which 53 inspections were made. In two cases want of cleanliness was found and in one case insufficient drainage of floor. All defects were remedied.

There were 46 premises registered at which mechanical power is used and of these 63 inspections were made. No defects were found.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Sect. 47.

No action was taken under the above-mentioned Act during 1951.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present to you my Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st December, 1951. I also include in the report some notes on the housing position.

The work of the Department has proceeded steadily during the year but again progress has often been slow owing to shortages of labour and materials. The position is very little better than last year when I drew your attention to this matter. We are often confronted with a situation in which the owner cannot speedily comply with the department's notices due to this cause, in many cases instructions are given to a builder to carry out works required but owing to pressure of work the builder has on hand some time elapses before he can get round to it.

I would again stress the considerable disproportion obtaining between the high cost of materials and labour and the average rent of houses in the area and the fact that in the case of small property owners this very often results in cases of extreme hardship.

Milk Supply.

Samples of milk for bacteriological examination were taken during the year and all proved to be satisfactory. It is to be remembered that quite 75% of the milk retailed in the area is pasteurised and sold in bottles.

Food and Drugs Act.

Two hundred and seven visits were paid to various food premises in the district for the purposes under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act and the examination of food stuffs. In three cases repairs and cleansing of premises were required by the department and the work was carried out.

50 cans of meat.	32 lbs. beef.
69 cans of evaporated milk.	1 lb. butter.
52 cans of mixed vegetables.	17 lbs. cereals.
39 cans of tomatoes.	5 pkts. cheese.
62 cans of fruit.	24 pkts. malted milk.
112 cans of fish.	11 jars of pickles.
16 cans of preserves.	2 puddings.
7 cans of soup.	

Note:- Included in the 50 cans of meat are 19 cans of imported ham weighing 241 lbs.

Offensive Trades.

Seven fried fish shops and one knacker's yard in the area, all have been satisfactory during the year.

Ice Cream.

Regular visits were paid to three premises manufacturing

ice-cream and none of the samples taken showed any serious defects. Owing to the irregular times at which the ice-cream is manufactured (this being largely dependent upon the weather from day to day), it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be collected. None of the manufacturers deal in big quantities of ice-cream.

Refuse Collection.

This service continues to be carried out without serious complaint.

The position regarding the supply of dustbins appears to be improved, though much remains to be done before the position is satisfactory.

I feel I must comment on the fact that refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of the Elliscales tip is its isolated position.

There are thirty five privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying premises.

During the year 68 tons of paper valued at £896 and rags to the value of £6 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1950 were 58 tons of paper valued at £320 and rags to the value of £3.

Housing.

During the year there were no houses completed and occupied, a matter of very great concern to anyone interested in the social life of the district.

I would again stress that probably 40 - 45% of the applicants on our housing list are not particularly in need of accommodation although they obviously want better accommodation than they have at present.

Whilst I appreciate the financial side of the Council's housing activities and agree that this is a very serious matter, I cannot too strongly point out that the happiness and well-being of a large section of the community far outweigh financial considerations.

I would again suggest that the Council consider the advisability of building a number of bungalows for older people. These can be built cheaper and speedier per unit, and more units from a given quantity of material than three bedroomed houses, whether or no the houses vacated by the old people are let from the housing list or dealt with privately it still remains a family house, the net result being that the total accommodation is increased at less expense to the Council.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between various trades of the town and

the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. Jackson,

Sanitary Inspector.

